

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/768,507

Examiner

Justin P. Misleh

Applicant(s)

SUEMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed April 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 4 and 11 - 20 (now renumbered 1 - 14, respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carolyn T. Baumgardner on June 14, 2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

CLAIMS

- **Claim 1** – please delete lines 31 – 34 and replace with the following: “wherein the amount of voltage decrease corresponds with a difference voltage between a first power source voltage level at a start of power initiation and a second power source voltage level during power initiation.”
- **Claim 11** – please delete lines 15 – 18 and replace with the following: “wherein the amount of power source voltage decrease corresponds with a difference voltage between a first power source voltage level at a start of power initiation and a second power source voltage level during power initiation.”

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1 – 4 and 11 – 20** (now renumbered 1 – 14, respectively) are allowed.
4. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art teaches a method for managing power consumption in a camera especially at the time of power-up. The method begins when the user powers-on the camera, wherein at that time a voltage sensor in the camera immediately compares the power source voltage with a threshold voltage. After camera power-up, if the power source is determined to be weak (by repetitive comparison to the threshold voltage), a quick series of alert signals will restore the camera to an appropriate power state. During power initiation, the camera consumes power by driving a lens cover motor and a lens barrel motor. Furthermore, if the power source voltage during the sequence remains strong, the motors are driven simultaneously and if the power source voltage during sequence becomes weakened, the motors are driven sequentially.

However, the closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest determining during power initiation whether an amount of voltage decrease from the power source voltage caused by an operation of one of the lens cover motor and the lens barrel motor is less than a predetermined decrease amount, wherein the amount of voltage decrease corresponds to a difference voltage (i.e., delta voltage) between a first power source voltage level at the time of power-on and a second power source voltage level during the power initiation sequence.

5. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, David L Ometz can be reached on 571.272.7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.3000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JPM
June 14, 2006


DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER